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Excerpt from book entitled Twilight in the Forbidden City, by  
Reginald F. Johnston, published by London Victor Gollancz  
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Pages 449-450

On November 13th I returned to Shanghai and learned from a private telegram that the emperor had left Tientsin for Manchuria.

The Chinese endeavoured to make out that the emperor had been kidnapped by the Japanese and carried off against his will. This statement was widely circulated among Europeans, many of whom believed it; but it was wholly untrue. The extraordinary statements recently published to the effect that the emperor and empress had telegraphed to Chiang Kai-shek at Nanking and to Chang Hsüeh-liang at Peking "asserting their loyalty and asking for sanctuary" are equally false. So is the allegation that the emperor had "sworn a pact with his wife to commit suicide before he would consent to be king of Manchuria." I need hardly say that the last persons in the world to whom the emperor would have appealed for sanctuary were Chiang Kai-shek and Chang Hsüeh-liang; and that had he wished to escape from the danger of being kidnapped and carried off to Manchuria, all he had to do was to walk on board a British steamer bound for Shanghai. His loyal and devoted servant Chêng Hsiao-hsü was most emphatically not his jailor. He left Tientsin and went to Manchuria of his own free will, and his faithful companions were Chêng Hsiao-hsü (now his prime minister) and his son Chêng Ch'ui.

## 辯護制書證 一〇〇七號

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## 「紫金城の黄昏」より拔萃

四四九頁―四五〇頁

十一月十三日に私は上海に歸り、私的な電報に依つて皇帝が既に天津を出發し滿洲に向つたことを知つた支那人はつぎめて、皇帝が日本人に誘拐され彼の意志に反して拉致されたのだと云はんとした。

この陳述は廣く歐洲人の間に傳はり中にはそれを信じた者もあつた。然しそれは全く誤りである。

最近臨時政府に依つて皇帝と皇后が南京の蔣介石と北京の張學良とに打電して竹箒の忠誠を明言し、庇護を依頼したといふことも同様に偽りである。同様に又皇帝が皇后と共に、もし彼が滿洲の王になることに同意する様なことがあつたらその前に自殺しようと言明したといふ言明も嘘

である。私は蒋介石や張學良に限つては到底皇帝が庇護を依頼するに足らぬ人間であるといふこと。又若し彼がさらはれて滿洲へ拉置される危険から逃れんと欲したならば彼のなすべきことは上海に向ふ英國船に乗船することであつたといふことを贅言する必要はない。

彼の忠誠なそして獻身的な使用人であつた張景惠は決して彼の看守ではなかつた。彼は自由意志で天津を離れ滿洲へ赴いたのであつた。そして彼の信頼しうる伴侶は張景惠（現總理大臣）と彼の子息の鄭垂であつた。